

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 190903Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMCONGEN NAHA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000X

DA WASHDC

DISTENGR JAPAN CPZAMA JAPAN

AREAENGR OKINAWA AREAOFK OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 18062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJ: OKINAWA REVERSION CLAIMS

REF: TOKYO 16635 DTG 200600Z NOV 75

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION NUMATA DECEMBER 17 TO RESOLVE STILL HANGING QUESTION (REFTEL) OF WHETHER GOJ WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE CLEAR POSITION REGARDING OUR DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A CUT OFF DATE ON EX-GRATIA CLAIMS UNDER ARTICLE 4.3 OF OKINAWA REVERSION AGREEMENT. NUMATA DEFERRED A RESPONSE SAYING GOVERNOR YARA WAS SENDING LETTER WHICH FONOFF UNDERSTOOD WOULD COME OUT FIRMLY AGAINST A CUT-OFF DATE, AND AGAINST THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE AREA ENGINEERS REAL ESTATE DIVISION. NUMATA SAID NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL ASAO WAS NOW IN OKINAWA AND, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, WOULD TRY TO CONVINCE PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT AT A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH LEVEL TO TAKE A MORE REASONABLE POSITION. NUMATA BELIEVED SENDING A CUTOFF NOTIFICATION LETTER AQT THIS TIME, AS WE PROPOSED TO DO, WOULD BE A "BOMBSHELL". WE BOTH AGREED THAT FORMAL PREFECTURAL APPROVAL WAS NEITHER LIKELY NOR ESSENTIAL, BUT THAT MORE DISCUSSIONS WERE ADVISABLE.

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2. NUMATA PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS AS THE FOREIGN

OFFICE WORKING POSITION IN THEIR TALKS WITH THE OKINAWANS: ESTABLISHMENT OF APRIL 1 CUT-OFF DATE, WINDING UP OF THE REAL ESTATE DIVISION WHEN ITS WORK COMPLETED, AND "AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE" SOME EFFECTIVE SUCCESSOR BODY TO COMPLETE ANY RESIDUAL FUNCTIONS. WE AGREED THESE ELEMENTS WERE COMPATIBLE WITH OUR RESPONSIBILITIES, AND URGED A DEFINITE INDICATION OF ACCEPTABILITY OF A CUT-OFF DATE, PREFERABLY EARLIER THAN APRIL 1. WE ARGUED THAT THE EARLIER THE CUT-OFF DATE, THE EARLIER WE WOULD KNOW WHAT THE REAL ESTATE DIVISION'S WORK SCHEDULE WOULD BE, AND ASKED FOR SUPPORT IN MAKING SURE THAT ALL CASES BE FILED PRIOR TO DEADLINE, EVEN IF THIS MEANT A SPECIAL ARRANGMENT ON SPLITTING OUR EX GRATIA AND GOJ WAIVED CLAIM LIABILITY ON CERTAIN CLAIMS. REGARDING AN EFFECTIVE SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION THIS COULD BE ARRANGED THROUGH OKINAWA AREA OFFICE AS WE HAD DISCUSSED. NUMATA MENTIONED AS A PERSONAL SUGGESTION THAT, DEPENDING ON THE TERMS OF THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE REAL ESTATE FUTURE DIVISION, PERHAPS SOME KNOWLEDGEABLE EMPLOYEES, IF THEY WERE BEING REHIRED IN OKINAWA, COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION--WHICH WE COULD THEREFORE CLAIM AS HAVING BOTH THE NOMINAL AND THE PRACTICAL CAPACITY TO FINISH ANY RESIDUAL WORK. NUMATA PROMISED A READING ON ASAO'S TRIP NEXT WEEK AND WE AGREED TO DEFER SENDING LETTER FOR THE TIME BEING.

3. NUMATA WAS QUITE SUPRISED AT OUR IMPLICATION THAT WASHINGTON SEEMED TO MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PAYMENTS TO BENEFICIARIES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CUT OFF DATE. FOR SECSTATE: WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT STATUS OF PAYMENTS IS, AS TIMING ON THIS ALSO WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON REAL ESTATE DIVISION WORK LOAD. HODGSON

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